

By: Representative McGee

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 854

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-54-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
3 LICENSE TO PROVIDE THAT THE APPLICANT'S DEGREE MAY BE FROM AN
4 INSTITUTION ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ACCREDITATION OF
5 COUNSELING AND RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (CACREP) AND TO REDUCE
6 THE NUMBER OF CLIENT CONTACT HOURS THAT THE APPLICANT MUST HAVE
7 COMPLETED IN A CLINICAL PRACTICUM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-54-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 73-54-17. (1) Any person who applies for a marriage and
12 family therapy license after September 1, 2000, shall be issued
13 that license by the board if he or she meets the qualifications
14 set forth in Section 73-54-13, and submits the required
15 application fees, and provides satisfactory evidence to the board
16 that he or she:

17 (a) Meets educational and experience qualifications as
18 follows:

19 (i) Holds a master's degree or doctoral degree in
20 marriage and family therapy from an institution of higher



21 education in a program that is accredited by the Commission on
22 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE),
23 or that was in COAMFTE candidacy status at the time of graduation
24 and subsequently received COAMFTE accreditation;

25 (ii) Following the receipt of the first qualifying
26 degree, has at least two (2) years of supervised experience in
27 marriage and family therapy, or its equivalent, acceptable to the
28 board; and

29 (iii) Has completed at least one hundred (100)
30 hours of marriage and family therapy supervision following receipt
31 of the first qualifying degree, as defined by the board; and

32 (b) Passes the national Examination in Marital and
33 Family Therapy prescribed by the Association for Marital and
34 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards; and

35 (c) Has been successfully cleared through a criminal
36 history records check, including a fingerprint and an acceptable
37 sex offender check, by appropriate governmental authorities as
38 prescribed by the board.

39 (2) Any person who applies for a marriage and family therapy
40 associate license after September 1, 2011, shall be issued that
41 license by the board for a period of twenty-four (24) months,
42 which may be renewed biennially for a period not to exceed a total
43 of forty-eight (48) months, if the applicant meets the
44 qualifications set forth in Section 73-54-13, submits the required



45 application fees, and provides satisfactory evidence to the board
46 that he or she:

47 (a) Holds a master's degree or doctoral degree in
48 marriage and family therapy from an institution of higher
49 education in a program that is accredited by the Commission on
50 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE),
51 or that was in COAMFTE candidacy status at the time of graduation
52 and subsequently received COAMFTE accreditation; or holds a
53 master's degree or doctoral degree in marriage, couple and family
54 counseling from an institution of higher education that is
55 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and
56 Related Educational Programs (CACREP);

57 (b) Completed a clinical practicum that consisted of a
58 minimum of * * * three hundred (300) client contact hours and one
59 hundred (100) hours of clinical supervision before receipt of the
60 qualifying degree;

61 (c) Passes the national Examination in Marital and
62 Family Therapy prescribed by the Association for Marital and
63 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards;

64 (d) Provides all professional services under the
65 supervision of a qualified supervisor in accordance with a
66 supervision contract approved by the board; and

67 (e) Has been successfully cleared through a criminal
68 history records check, including a fingerprint and an acceptable



69 sex offender check, by appropriate governmental authorities as
70 prescribed by the board.

71 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
72 and after July 1, 2023.

